

# Fairview

## Primary School





# WELCOME TO FAIRVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL



Thank you for considering Fairview Primary School as the school for your child! I understand that deciding which school your child will attend is a huge step and we hope this prospectus will help you with that decision.

We pride ourselves on all that we have to offer our children and, in turn, their achievements and outcomes. Through a dedicated, talented and hard-working staff we aim to INSPIRE your child to reach their potential. Through careful planning and tailored teaching that meets the needs of every individual pupil, we SUPPORT them throughout their learning journey.

In partnership with you as their parents or carers we aspire to ensure every child will ACHIEVE during their time with us.

Our pupils are at the heart of all that we do at Fairview. We have a happy school. We have a staff who enjoy their work and we have pupils who enjoy coming to school each day. We have a deep Christian ethos that is shown through our caring and welcoming atmosphere.

We firmly believe in a strong and open partnership between school and home. Through active communication we ensure our children can develop into secure,

happy and well-rounded young people who are proud of their achievements.

This prospectus will only give you a snapshot into life at Fairview. The best way to experience our welcoming, friendly and child-centred ethos is to arrange a visit or attend our open day.

I very much look forward to welcoming you, and your child, to Fairview Primary School.

**Mrs Matthews**  
**Principal**





### **Ethos**

We believe our school nurtures all individuals in their journey to achieve their full and unique potential. We are committed to developing an inclusive, welcoming, safe and stimulating learning environment that will enable all our pupils to be happy and become responsible citizens and lifelong learners. We are aware that our pupils bring different experiences, interests and strengths that influence the way they learn and develop their independence.

### **Vision Statement**

We strive to make our school a place where all staff, governors and parents work actively together to ensure each child receives a rich, inspiring, dynamic and engaging education enabling them to become lifelong learners aspiring to high standards of achievement in all areas of life.

### **Mission Statement**

We aim to attain our vision by providing inspiring teaching within a supportive learning environment that empowers children to achieve.

OUR  
AdVenture  
BegINS  
hERE....



## Outdoor Learning

In addition to our two playgrounds, football field and play park you'll find, nestled behind our school building, our vegetable garden, polytunnel and environmental garden. The environmental garden is our hidden gem featuring a wooden trim trail, bird and bat boxes, a nature pond, bug hotels, willow arches and a superb outdoor teaching area. It's a gorgeous setting with trails mown through the long grass and spring flowers; it really is the perfect space for our children to become nature detectives.

At Fairview we understand the importance of outdoor learning in developing our pupils as holistic children and ensure all year groups have lessons outside on a regular basis. Outdoor learning is timetabled for Primary 1 and Primary 2 children and careful teacher planning ensures the children are continually progressing. Primary 6 complete Forest School lessons throughout the year and our school is an Ambassador Forest School in recognition of our commitment to outdoor learning.

Our pupils develop self-confidence, independence and awareness of a healthier lifestyle as they are given time to be creative in our outdoor environment. We encourage children to appreciate the beauty of nature and to understand that learning takes place anywhere, any time, as they complete cross-curricular lessons in our school grounds.



## Awards

We have achieved our Level 5 RHS Gardening Award and our children, through use of our vegetable garden and orchard, have the opportunity to grow and taste various fruit and vegetables including potatoes, carrots, rhubarb, apples, pears, plums, berries and beans.

Not only are we an accredited Forest School, we are a Forest School Ranger School, meaning we support other schools to achieve Forest School status. All our year groups enjoy outdoor lessons in the school grounds, with Primary 5–7 making use of the local park, in collaboration with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, to extend opportunities including a river study, tree and air-quality studies and exclusive use of the conservation area.

With outdoor learning as an integral part of our curriculum, we hope to develop a lifelong love of the outdoors within our pupils.







**Northern Ireland Forest School Association (NIFSA)**

We are recognised as a 'Forest School Ranger School', setting the standards for others to follow. We make use of our local park, The Sixmile Park, as well as having GOLD days each week in our school grounds – Great Outdoor Learning and Discovery.



**Royal Horticultural Society Level 5 Gardening Award**

Our ongoing gardening efforts resulted in our RHS Level 5 Gardening Award. We are always delighted to share our garden with others, such as through our Blitz days and Nursery Buddy sessions. Our gardening work has helped us consistently achieve success in Best Kept School awards.





# LITERACY



Mrs Norris and Ms McConnell, Literacy Leaders

## Ms McConnell, Literacy Leader Foundation/Key Stage 1

I teach Primary 2 but I am also a curriculum coordinator, which means that I am responsible for the development and organisation of the teaching of literacy in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. As my past pupils will remember, I love to read the Julia Donaldson books to my class. The best part of my role is seeing the progression from emergent writers in the Foundation Stage to accomplished writers by the time they leave us in Primary 7.

## Literacy

At Fairview we believe that our fundamental task is to teach our children to speak clearly and articulately and to read and write effectively. Reading across all curricular areas is a priority to extend and deepen pupils' understanding and use of vocabulary. We want our pupils to develop a love of reading during their time at Fairview and be exposed to a range of texts.



The use of the school's Accelerated Reading library and class-shared texts are pivotal to this. All pupils from Primary 4 to Primary 7 participate in the Accelerated Reader programme and various competitions are held throughout the year, with a variety of rewards to help motivate pupils.

Literacy is taught using a cross-curricular approach, meaning that the skills children learn can be applied in writing right across the curriculum, giving them a clear purpose and scope for creativity.

In the early years children participate in daily phonics and shared reading and writing activities. Once children develop an understanding of letter combination and sound association, spelling strategies and grammar conventions are introduced in a meaningful and stimulating way. This is built on as they progress through the school, with the valued support of parents and carers at home, producing pupils who

**'enjoy reading a wide range of more complex texts, are knowledgeable about different genres and authors, and use confidently a wide range of effective reading strategies.'** (ETI Primary Inspection, Nov 2019)

Our pupils love having the opportunity to share their work with peers, parents and other teachers, but especially Mrs Matthews, who has a special place on her WOW board for those best efforts!

For those who need a little extra support, we offer Reading Together sessions in Key Stage 1 and the pupils identified benefit from having this opportunity to work on their skills. Through Reading Buddies, Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils team up with a reading partner from Primary 7 and Primary 6. This is a two-way reading opportunity that allows both to practise their reading skills in an informal situation and all involved look forward to meeting their reading buddy during the week.









# NUMERACY

## Miss McClelland, Numeracy Leader Foundation/Key Stage 1

I grew up in Omagh and my mum was a maths teacher, so maths has been a feature of my life for as long as I can remember! Listening to her stories fostered an early interest in the subject and that has developed into a love of all things mathematical! I love to find new ways to teach concepts to help children in their learning and I get so enthused when I hear them talking confidently and happily about their maths! I am passionate about maximising home-school links through our Seesaw app, and I have recently become a Seesaw Ambassador.

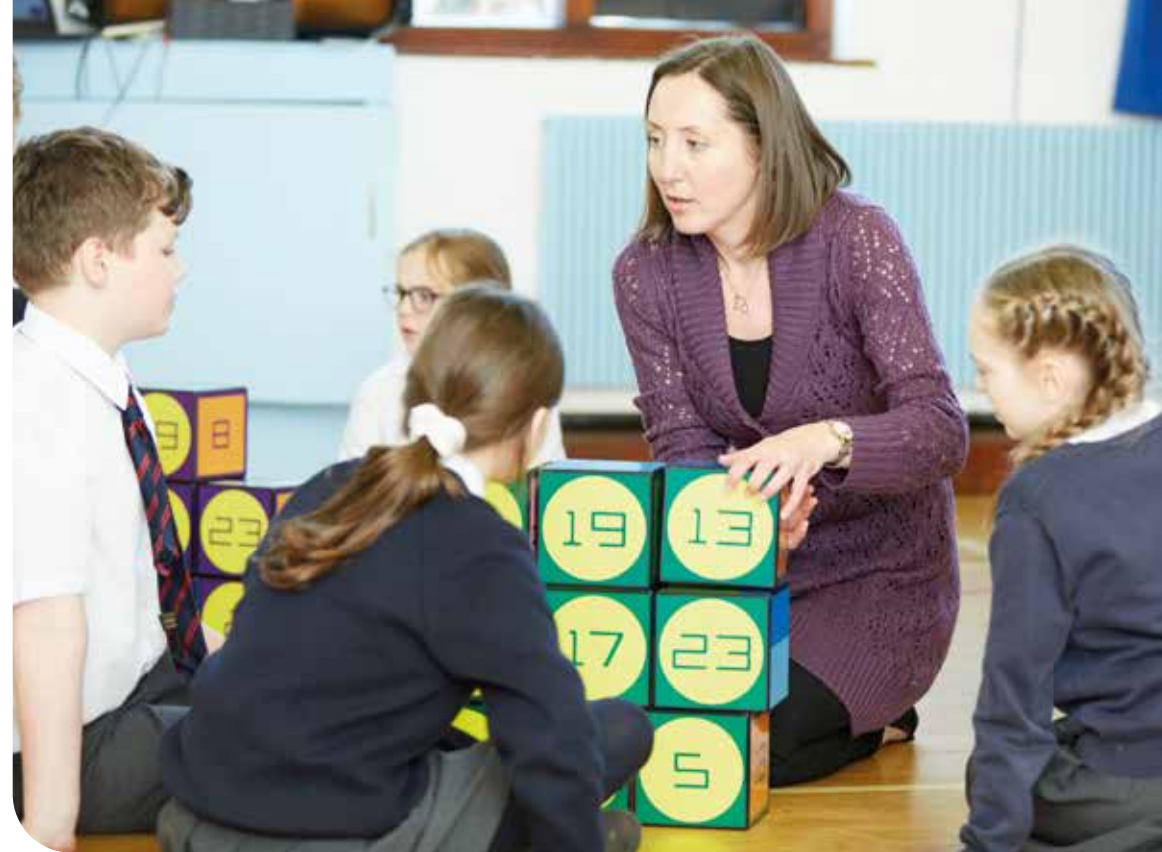
## Numeracy

Numeracy is one of the core subjects of our curriculum that we want our children to enjoy. It is important that our pupils have a positive attitude and become risk-takers and problem-solvers. Throughout the year there are many opportunities for children to develop their understanding both within the classroom and through outdoor learning. From finding colours and shapes within the school grounds to measuring the height and circumferences of trees in our local Sixmile Park, the children are given opportunities to discover numeracy in real-life contexts. The children are encouraged to work individually but also collaboratively, in pairs and in small groups, where they develop their thinking skills and problem-solving techniques together. These experiences help them to grow in confidence, allowing them to explain and discuss their work alongside their peers while also developing the life skills of communicating and working with others.

There are many opportunities for the children to develop their numeracy through the use of iPads and laptops.



Miss McClelland and Miss Paul, Numeracy Leaders







Mr Kennedy

## Mr Kennedy, ICT Leader

I graduated as a teacher in May 2001 and was appointed as a teacher in Fairview Primary School a few weeks later. Almost 20 years later, I'm still teaching in Fairview, leading the development of ICT in school and coordinating our Shared Education partnership. I'm just 'part of the furniture' now, as they say, dedicated to providing the best education for our pupils as well as making their time in Fairview as fun and enjoyable as possible.



### Digital Schools Awards Northern Ireland

Fairview Primary School achieved the Digital Schools Award, which is awarded to schools and teachers that are committed to identifying and achieving effective practice in making digital technologies part of their school curriculum.

## ICT and Digital Schools Award

Our pupils are growing up in an age of innovation where ICT and digital technologies form a huge part of everyday life. At Fairview Primary School we embrace these technologies, helping to make learning and teaching more relevant, fun, interesting and meaningful. We use the Seesaw app extensively throughout the school to provide a window into your child's classroom, but also as a journal to support learning and teaching from Primary 1 to Primary 4. In our senior classes, Google Classroom provides a platform for accessing tasks and instructional videos at home and also publishing work for feedback from peers and class teacher alike.

We have invested heavily in our digital resources over the years so that our pupils gain a variety of experiences and skills from simple desktop publishing to more advanced coding and programming using a range of tools and devices such as our drones and spheros. We have iPads in every classroom with age-appropriate apps to supplement and extend learning as well as ICT monitors in Primary 7 who are on hand to assist during ICT sessions as required.

Our innovative use of ICT has been recognised externally with a Digital Schools Award for our use of ICT and digital technologies. Our ICT leader, Mr Kennedy, has presented to groups of teachers beyond our own school and at the Education and Training Inspectorate annual conference regarding the innovative practice in Fairview.







## LEARNING AND TEACHING AT FAIRVIEW

In Fairview Primary School we offer all our pupils full access to the Northern Ireland curriculum. As a school we regularly review and revise our curriculum to ensure it is meeting the needs of all our children, enabling them to reach their full potential. Your child's education will be divided into three stages:

### Foundation Stage

Primary 1 and Primary 2 form the Foundation Stage. Pupils transition from their pre-school setting and staff ensure this is carried out smoothly through building on their early experiences.

Play-based learning forms an integral part of their core experiences. Through skilful planning staff develop early reading, writing and mathematical skills, which begin to form a solid foundation of the pupils' learning as they move through Primary 1 and Primary 2.

Outdoor learning is a key feature of the Foundation Stage with many aspects of topic work as well as literacy and numeracy

being taught and developed outside in our extensive grounds.

### Key Stage 1

As pupils move into Primary 3 and Primary 4, early foundation skills are developed further in a more formal way.

Activity-based learning is a means of developing enquiring and inquisitive minds, ensuring thinking skills and personal capabilities are at the fore of topic work.

### Key Stage 2

One of the main features of moving into Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7 is the development of the individual learner. Pupils continue to embrace all areas of the Northern Ireland curriculum while we support them through the widening of their experiences and opportunities. By doing so we have children who are not only prepared for transition to the next stage of their learning, but who are ready to become future contributors to society.





By having full access to the Northern Ireland curriculum we are encouraging a climate of success and self-belief among our pupils. Activities and learning experiences encourage confidence, curiosity and creativity.

**The Primary curriculum is set out in six areas of learning:**

- ▶ Language and Literacy
- ▶ Mathematics and Numeracy
- ▶ The Arts
- ▶ The World Around Us
- ▶ Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- ▶ Physical Education

At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and operating effectively in society.

Through opportunities to engage in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum, children will progressively develop:

**Cross-Curricular Skills:**

- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Using Mathematics
- ▶ Using Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

**Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:**

- ▶ Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making
- ▶ Self-Management
- ▶ Working with Others
- ▶ Managing Information
- ▶ Being Creative



**Foundation Stage  
Primary 1&2**



**Key Stage 1  
Primary 3&4**

**Key Stage 2  
Primary 5, 6 & 7**

**There are six Areas of Learning for each Key Stage**



**Mathematics & Numeracy**

Mathematics and Numeracy or 'Using Mathematics' (focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum)



**Language & Literacy**

Language and Literacy or 'Communication' (including Talking & Listening, Reading and Writing and opportunities to incorporate drama)



**Personal Development & Mutual Understanding**

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and sexual education, understanding in the local and global community)



**Physical Education**

Physical Education (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities)



**The Arts**

The Arts (including art and design, music and opportunities to incorporate drama)

**Policy Documents**

We have a wide range of policy documents available for parents on request from the office. A copy of our Admission Policy, Complaints Procedure, Child Protection and Positive Behaviour Policy are all available on request.



## Mrs Burns, Head of Pastoral Care

As a mummy I know just how important pastoral care is in school and I am so passionate about the work we do in Fairview to support all our pupils and families. I am incredibly fortunate that I get to work on a 1–1 basis with pupils and parents who trust me to help them overcome obstacles, both big and small, in their lives. Personally, I know how much a supportive adult can make a difference to your life. Our life experiences shape who we are and I am so lucky that I get to help children to see their full potential and to feel happy, safe and content. I am honoured to have this role in school and treasure those moments when a child grows in self-belief, recognises their strengths and realise that they can achieve their goals. There is no better feeling.

Mrs Burns | Head of Pastoral Care



## Pastoral Care and Learning Support

As a school we view our pupils, parents and staff as part of our Fairview family, which is why we prioritise the health and well-being of all in our care. We are proactive in our approach to support our pupils through our preventative curriculum. The positive relationships established between staff and pupils enable our pupils to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment. In our most recent Inspection Report, the Education and Training Inspectorate stated that, **'The safeguarding preventative curriculum includes a bespoke pastoral programme for the children and an extensive range of interventions and support mechanisms'**. We place our children at the heart of everything we do.

Our child-centred pastoral care system ensures that we address barriers to learning by offering a range of supportive programmes that help our pupils in all areas of their development – academically, socially, physically and emotionally. We value our relationship with you as parents and carers, and we know that for our children to succeed it is vital that we work in collaboration – pupils, parents and staff.

We are aware that all children may, at some point, need help to overcome any worries they may face or support to navigate through challenges in their lives. We have a highly experienced team of staff who are trained to meet and support our pupils' needs.

A large number of staff have been trained as Social Guardians through the Women's Aid Helping Hands Programme.



We offer drawing and talking therapy for children who benefit from a more structured 1–1 intervention approach. As well as this we offer:

- **Individual Pastoral Support Sessions** – children can be identified by both teachers and their parents/carers. They are offered sessions on a 1–1 basis with a highly trained member of staff.
- **Individual Parent Support Sessions** – we recognise that there are times when parents also need a caring and listening ear. Sessions are offered to parents who wish to avail of them.
- **PAAS Programme** – if children are identified as having difficulties with their self-confidence and perception of abilities in literacy and numeracy, we offer them the opportunity to attend sessions with an experienced and trained teaching assistant to boost their self-esteem and self-confidence. We have had great success and feedback from all pupils who have attended these sessions.

## Peer Ambassadors

Our P6 and P7 pupils have the opportunity to apply for peer ambassador roles. In this role they have an input into pastoral policies, the pastoral curriculum and are trained to be a support and mentor to their peers. They are trained in areas such as resilience, teamwork, listening skills and the importance of confidentiality.

## Links with external agencies

We have worked hard to establish relationships with external agencies to support the pastoral work we do in school. As part of our preventative curriculum we have Women's Aid in school to run programmes linked to self-esteem, self-confidence and anti-bullying. The NSPCC visits school every two years to share the importance of staying safe. We have links with the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum and the Diana Award for Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.





We have introduced mindfulness sessions taken by a trained teacher to support our older children in developing their positive mindset and teaching mechanisms to manage stress and anxiety. We aim to keep our parents informed of training opportunities and information to support their children through services such as Parenting NI. We also have had the opportunity to run nutrition and exercise sessions through our links with the Community Sports Network.

In recognition of all the work we do in school we are currently in the process of earning the Carnegie Mental Health Award for Schools.

### **Positive Behaviour**

We believe in the importance of promoting the positive aspects of behaviour and we celebrate pupil achievement in this area through our various reward systems in school. We have shared Golden Rules that the children have ownership over. They are encouraged to respect themselves, their peers and their school environment. We have high but realistic expectations of our pupils and we are committed to developing their self-esteem, confidence, resilience and independence. We want our children to feel safe, secure and happy in school.



### **Safeguarding**

We provide a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the learning and care of all alongside the social, physical, emotional and moral development of the individual child. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all and our prime concern is always the well-being of our pupils.

### **Learning Support**

In Fairview we pride ourselves in providing high-quality support and intervention for all our pupils, especially those with a Special Educational Need. We believe early intervention is key and use a combination of teacher observations and assessments to identify and provide for additional needs across all our classrooms while working closely with our parents. Some children may receive support within class, some may come out of class for sessions of small group or individual support that may include use of our innovative Sensory Garden at the front of school. Whatever the need, intervention is tailored for the individual child and is continuously monitored and adapted to meet those needs as targets are met.

As a staff we have a wide and varied specialist skill set with training opportunities sought and engaged in annually. We work closely with many outside agencies such as the Education Authority's Educational Psychology Department, Autism Advice and Intervention Services and RISE NI. We delight in the progress our children make both academically and personally.

### **Miss Earls, Learning Support Coordinator**

I joined the Fairview family when I qualified in 2009 and it has been my much-loved home ever since. I am proud to be part of the team and relish my roles as both a P4 teacher and as learning support coordinator. I love being able to help support our children holistically, encouraging them to overcome any difficulties they might face and seeing challenges as opportunities to learn. Working with the children and watching them flourish really is an honour – their achievements at every level really do make me smile and it's why I adore being a teacher.



## SUPPORT



### School Council

School Council includes pupils from Primary 4 to Primary 7 and gives 'pupil voice' to the whole school. Each class votes on a representative who will attend School Council with a huge responsibility to bring ideas from their class with them to meetings and also feed back what has been discussed and get thoughts. Following meetings, Council members will visit a junior class, tell them what has been discussed and decided and get ideas from them for what they would like to see in the future. Pupil voice is at the centre of all we do in Fairview.

### House System

We have four houses to which children are assigned when they enter Key Stage 2: Rashee, Collin, Cogry and Ollar. Throughout the year houses compete against each other in a range of events. House Captains represent their houses and work closely with Miss McMillan to organise and promote House events. House points are also awarded for good work, good behaviour and various positive actions observed.







#### **International School Award**

We have been working hard to develop the international dimension within school, recognised through this award. Amongst other elements, we have lessons in Spanish and French; we celebrate European Day of Languages; we have language links with local post primary schools and we have partnered with a school in Kenya.

#### **Buddy System**

Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils take on the role of Lunchtime Buddies each day supporting our Primary 1–3 pupils with games and friendship in the playground. A firm favourite with all pupils, young and old, is when the senior pupils get to do Buddy Reading with the Primary 1s and 2s outside during the summer term.

#### **TRANSITION**

##### **Post-Primary**

We have strong links with the local post-primary schools. Each year we get a number of senior pupils from both schools in Fairview on work experience and to assist with after-school activities. We have developed partnerships with the science departments at Ballyclare Secondary School and Ballyclare High School, including engaging in an ecology study with Ballyclare Secondary School Year 8 pupils around their grounds and the nearby Sixmile Park. In recent years we have visited Ballyclare High School for PE lessons and ICT workshops. In addition, our hockey, rugby and football clubs have benefited from the use of our local post-primary facilities and coaching staff.

Added to the above, both post-primaries invite P7 to their annual musical performances, and our P6 year group get to visit Ballyclare High School each June to sample what the school has to offer. By the time our P7 pupils are ready to move on to their next adventure, the transition links we have in place make the move much less daunting.

##### **Nursery – Nursery Buddies**

We are delighted to partner with our friends in Ballyclare Nursery on a number of occasions each year, including termly outdoor lessons in our environmental garden and visits for our Junior Christmas Concert and hosting the nursery's own



Graduation Ceremony each June. These visits, and getting to know the children, give our youngest pupils a sense of familiarity before starting in Primary 1.

#### **Languages – International School Award**

For many years Fairview has been recognised for developing languages and this resulted in being awarded the International School Award by the British Council. We have had strong links with a school in Kenya and celebrate International Day of Languages each year.

Mrs McAllister, our very own language teacher, delivers weekly Spanish lessons for all pupils and French is introduced to Primary 7 pupils in preparation for moving on to post-primary school.



## THE FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY

Fairview is a school connected to its local community and beyond. We have strong links with the local nursery school as well as the local post-primary schools. Pupils are given many opportunities to participate in activities in their local community. Often visitors will come into school and pupils will also engage in activities outside school, such as Forest School in the Sixmile Park. We have strong links with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

Our school has a well-established partnership with St Oliver Plunkett Primary School in Belfast through the Department of Education's Shared Education Programme. This initiative has allowed our pupils to go beyond their local community to participate

in activities to extend their cooperation with and understanding of others.

### **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**

Fairview has a strong history of having a healthy, thriving PTA. Every parent/carer can join the PTA, with a committee and office bearers elected each year.

The committee coordinates the organisation of a range of fun events for pupils throughout the year. It is an opportunity to strengthen our links with parents and everyone can feel that they have an active role to play. Fundraising from this very active and committed group has helped provide many valuable and appreciated resources that enhance the learning experiences for all our pupils.







### **Assemblies**

Assembly twice a week is an important part of school life when our year groups can come together. Each week we have local church representatives in to lead an assembly and our pupils join in a weekly time of praise. During our time together, we take time to acknowledge the achievements of our pupils and celebrate their successes.

### **Charities**

The Fairview community is actively involved in a range of charities both at local and global levels. Donating to charity is an important part of our role in society and acknowledging those who are in need, either at home or further afield. In recent years we have supported charities such as Stand By Me, Children in Need, Macmillan Cancer, Tearfund and the Newtownabbey Foodbank.

### **Online Safety**

At Fairview Primary School we believe that regularly educating our children about online safety is very important. In school we continue to embed clear rules about using the internet and these are displayed in every classroom and in our school corridors. We are also pleased to present our own Online Safety Team within school, made up of P7 pupils who show an aptitude towards computing and a particular interest in online safety. The team works closely with Miss McMillan to create and publish various online safety materials used across the school and also deliver assemblies to promote these important messages.

### **Breakfast Club**

Our Breakfast Club is an essential part of supporting working parents. Pupils can be dropped off from 7.45 a.m. when they can have a breakfast of cereal, toast and juice. Pupils are then taken to their classes for the start of the school day.



# ACHIEVE



## Mr McAllister, Vice Principal and The World Around Us Leader

I am a Ballyclare native. I spent seven happy years as a pupil in Fairview, I did work experience and teaching practice in Fairview, I got my first job in Fairview and seventeen years later I am vice principal in Fairview! Safe to say, Fairview is in my blood. I love this school and am driven to ensure we maintain the high standards and wealth of experiences open to all our pupils, especially within science, which offers so many opportunities to enhance learning right across the curriculum as well as having that WOW factor!

I am active in the community, coaching cricket at Templepatrick Cricket Club and serving as an officer in 1st Ballyclare Boys' Brigade. I love being involved in sports with my three children, cycling and getting out for walks with the whole family.



### Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT)

In 2013, Mr McAllister was awarded Science Teacher of the Year and invited to become a Fellow of the Primary Science Teaching Trust. Our link with the trust has enabled Fairview to put a focus on developing our science teaching in the years since and also provided the impetus for cluster work with local schools, primary and post-primary, as well as Queen's University and Stranmillis University College.



### Primary Science Quality Mark Gold Award

Fairview Primary School achieved this accolade after three years focused development of science. The award is recognition of a whole school effort in raising standards both in Fairview and sharing best practice with other schools, culminating in the Gold Award, the highest available.



### Great Science Share Ambassador School

We promote high-quality learning and teaching each year in the UK-wide Great Science Share. Pupils share results from investigations they have carried out in class and at home with peers throughout school, other teachers, parents and visitors. Our innovative approach led to us becoming the first and only Ambassador School in Northern Ireland.

## Science

In 2013 Mr McAllister was awarded Science Teacher of the Year, a UK-wide award, and became a Fellow of the Primary Science Teaching Trust. This award came as a result of leading outstanding science teaching in Fairview Primary School and also in the community, as Mr McAllister leads a cluster of local schools developing science skills across the curriculum.

Further awards have followed for the development of science in school and beyond, with a Primary Science Quality Mark and becoming a Great Science Share Ambassador School. Our most recent ETI inspection (2019) stated **'the learning and teaching is characterised by: interactive, investigative learning experiences; open-ended questions; and appropriately challenging learning opportunities that matched the individual needs of the children'**.







### Eco School

At Fairview we are a multiple-award-winning Ambassador Eco School. We have achieved our fifth Green Flag and are currently working towards our sixth. On our most recent assessment the Eco Schools' team were **'particularly impressed with the continuity and strength of the programme and the quality of the projects'** within our school. Our Eco Committee is particularly active within school and cover all aspects of the Eco Schools' topics.

We are the first school in Ireland to be a Zero Waste school and the third in Northern Ireland to achieve the Gold Sustrans Award for Active Travel. This award recognises our focus on sustainable travel as over 80% of our pupils travel actively to school on a regular basis. We hold events such as Cycle Skills and Bling your Bike to teach the pupils about the importance of sustainable travel and road safety skills.



### Sustrans Gold Award

Transport is one of our major topics within Eco Schools. It was a great honour to achieve our Gold Award, recognising Fairview's ongoing commitment to sustainable transport.



### Eco School Ambassador School

We are not just an Eco School, we are a multiple award winning Ambassador Eco School, charged with maintaining the highest standards of environmental leadership in our own school and promoting the Eco Schools' programme around other schools who can learn from our experience.



## THE ARTS



### **Mrs Penney, Music Leader**

As someone who started their musical journey in primary school, I know how important those first foundations are. Children are inherently musical and it is my job to tend those seeds of talent and encourage them to grow and blossom in time. To me, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing students develop from hesitant beginners to competent young musicians and to share the enjoyment this journey brings.

### **Music**

We have a long tradition of music at Fairview and offer pupils lots of additional opportunities to develop their musicality alongside their regular classroom music-making activities. For those who love to sing, we have three choirs – Infant, Junior and Senior. Over the years we have enjoyed sustained success with our choirs in local and province-wide competitions. This has led to many invitations for us to perform at prestigious events in the local and wider community and even a few TV appearances!

We offer instrumental lessons in upper and lower strings, brass, woodwind, drums and piano led by experienced specialist teachers. These pupils then have opportunities to play together in ensembles and in our school orchestra. We also encourage the children to complete music exams to gain qualifications for proficiency in their chosen instruments.

A walk along the corridor might allow you to hear anything from Georges Bizet to George Gershwin or even George Ezra – there's always music going on somewhere in Fairview!

The Arts is one of our widest learning areas, encompassing art, drama, music and physical education.

### **Mrs McQueen, Arts Leader**

I joined the Fairview team as a P1 teacher in September 2008 after graduating with a specialism in physical education and early years. The main sport I love is netball; it's such a fun, fast moving, competitive sport. I enjoy playing, watching and coaching it. It's truly rewarding to see a team, in any sport, come together and implement different strategies to improve performance.

As well as sport, I personally love to paint. I feel it is very therapeutic and love that in my role in Primary 1 I can establish this thought process at an early age. I've had children tell me they want to be an artist when they grow up – how wonderful is that? I love to see how creative our pupils can be and it's a pleasure to see their talents refine over the years to produce some amazing pieces of artwork right up to P7.







### Extra-Curricular Activities and Teams

At our most recent ETI inspection (2019), it was noted how our pupils **'enjoy participating in a wide range of after-school clubs'**. We have clubs available every afternoon, with options for Primary 1 right through to Primary 7. If your interests are musical, sports, art or environmental, we have something for everyone.

Every child has the opportunity to take part in sports in Fairview Primary School. As well as embracing a range of sporting and activity-based opportunities that come our way, we have teams representing the school with huge success in:

- ▶ Football
- ▶ Hockey
- ▶ Netball
- ▶ Rugby
- ▶ Cricket
- ▶ Athletics



## PAST PUPILS

### Bethany McComb

Fairview Primary School holds a special place in my heart as it is where my dreams of becoming a nurse began. I have so many fond memories of each year at school as opportunity after opportunity arose.

I was greatly involved with the Junior and Senior Choirs and I loved the opportunity to perform on stage with my friends at competitions and events. We had so much fun and everyone in the audience always had shivers down their spine when Fairview Primary School Choir was performing!

Sports days were always a highlight of the school year for me. I loved the different races and in particular, the sack race. Playing sports and being encouraged to get involved with a team helped me develop my teamwork skills as I later went on to play hockey and netball at Ballyclare Secondary School.

I look back fondly to memories with friends and teachers alike and can clearly see how Fairview shaped not only my education, but my character - both of which played a significant part in my time at Ballyclare Secondary School, where I went on to become Head Girl. Those lessons and influences have also continued to be present as I progressed to Queen's University, Belfast, to complete my nursing degree, and now as I work for the NHS as a nursing in Belfast City Hospital.



### Anna O'Hara

Fairview has been my foundation. From the first moment I set foot in my Primary 1 class, I can honestly say that I had the best experience in Fairview Primary School. I worked hard, with the encouragement of all my teachers, to achieve the goals I set in place.

My highlights are hard to list as I had so many; however, if I was to choose one, I think it would have to be my Primary 7 school trip to York. A week away with my friends to learn the history of a new place, as well as visit a theme park, was very exciting.

A life-changing experience for me must be the after-school hockey club, especially playing for the school team in matches and tournaments. These tournaments were such an honour to attend. The pride I felt putting on the kit knowing I had been picked to represent the school was beyond words. Hockey has played a huge role in my life; it is a sport I love and I continue to play for Ballyclare High School 1st XV and Randalstown Ladies.

I believe one of the main characteristics I took away from Fairview was to work hard and to be passionate to achieve my goals. As Deputy Head Girl at Ballyclare High School I aspire to encourage and be an advocate for my peers.

I must admit in writing this, I have shed a tear or two as I reminisce about my many happy years at Fairview that will forever be embedded in my memory.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

### School Uniform

Fairview Primary School takes great pride in the appearance of our pupils and we seek to set high standards. Wearing school uniform gives our pupils a sense of pride and belonging.











### Fairview Primary School

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